

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully. Claims 1, 4 and 5 have been amended. Therefore, claims 1-6 remain in this application and are again presented for the Examiner's consideration in view of the following comments.

In the Official Action, claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. More particularly, the Examiner has contended that the specification fails to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the "production means" as recited in claim 1 or the "producing" step as recited in claim 4. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As explained in the present application, the EPG manager produces the retrieval table as set forth in claims 1 and 4 (page 21, lines 4-5). The EPG manager is a part of a computer program in CPU 16 which manages EPG objects (page 18, lines 1-4 and Fig. 12). The process by which the EPG manager produces the retrieval table is shown in the flowchart of Fig. 16 and explained in detail in the specification at page 21, line 7 through page 23, line 2. In accordance with this description, the EPG manager receives the broadcast start and end times of a predetermined EPG object (program). The EPG manager uses this information to set relative start and stop times for the program and generates clone EPG objects. That is, the EPG manager divides the length of each program into segments (clone objects) and allots each segment to a time increment of, for example, one hour based on the relative start and end times of the segment. As a result, each program may

have one or more clone EPG objects, with each clone EPG object being allocated to a time zone having a predetermined length of time.

Applicant submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would readily understand how to produce the retrieval table based on the descriptions provided by applicant in the present application. Accordingly, applicant submits that the present application provides an enabling disclosure which satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Specifically, the Examiner has contended that the limitation "each time zone" in claims 1 and 4 lack antecedent basis. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 4 to delete the recitation "each time zone" and to insert in its place the recitation "at least one of a plurality of time zones." Applicant submits that this amendment overcomes the Examiner's rejection and places claims 1-6 in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicant submits, by reason of the amendments to the claims and the comments set forth therein, that this application is in condition for immediate allowance. Therefore, reconsideration of claims 1-6 as are now pending in this application is earnestly solicited, and an early Notice of Allowance thereof is respectfully requested. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he may have.

No fee is believed necessary for this response. However,

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if the Examiner believes a fee is due, he is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

1. (Amended) A receiver for receiving broadcast signals multiplexed with program guide information including at least information on the broadcast times ~~information~~ of programs, the receiver comprising:

receiving means for receiving the broadcast signals;

separation means for separating the program guide information from the received broadcast signals; and

production means for producing a retrieval table in which, with reference to ~~a~~ the broadcast times of the programs included in the program guide information, each program is allocated to at least one of a plurality of ~~each~~ time zones each having with a range of a predetermined length of time ~~on the basis of the separated program guide information.~~

4. (Amended) A method for retrieving broadcast signals multiplexed with program guide information, including at least information on the broadcast times ~~information~~ of programs, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving the broadcast signals;

separating the program guide information from the received broadcast signals; and

producing a retrieval table in which, with reference to ~~a~~ the broadcast times of the programs included in the program guide information, each program is allocated to ~~each~~ at least one of a plurality of time zones each having with a range of a predetermined

~~length of time on the basis of the separated program guide information.~~

5. (Amended) The program retrieval method as claimed in claim 4, wherein ~~at the step of producing a retrieval table,~~ includes producing a retrieval table ~~is produced~~ for each genre of the programs.

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